



News for Immediate Release  
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**1st Snow Survey of Winter**

SACRAMENTO - The first snow survey of the winter by the California Department of Water Resources will take place at 11 a.m. December 29 near Lake Tahoe.

It will be the first of four monthly measurements made through April to help determine spring runoff into reservoirs.

In addition to this single manually measured site, reporters can find the latest real-time estimations of statewide water content posted on the Internet at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/reports/DLYSWEQ.html>. Call Jeff Cohen, Public Affairs Office, at (916) 653-0979 for assistance.

The location for the manual survey is the Phillips Station site at Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road, about 90 miles east of Sacramento. Bring snowshoes or cross-country skis. Complete measurements should be available by noon. The survey team can be reached at (916) 798-1752 [cell] or (916) 916-574-2636 [office].

Future surveys will be held around the first of each month and by around April 1, when the statistical "end of winter" will have been reached.

**Importance of Snow Surveying**

Snow-water content is important in determining the coming year's water supply. The measurements help hydrologists prepare water supply forecasts as well as provide others, such as hydroelectric power companies and the recreation industry, with much needed data.

Snow-water monitoring is coordinated by the Department of Water Resources as part of the multi-agency California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program. Surveyors from more than 50 agencies and utilities visit hundreds of snow measurement courses in the Sierra each month to gauge the amount of water in the snowpack.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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